

Watkins selected for national nuclear panel

Sunday, April 26, 2015 1:12 AM *Staff report*

State Rep. Gerald Watkins, D-Paducah, has been named to a national legislative committee working on nuclear issues.

In recognition of the role he and his Paducah-area district have played in Kentucky's contribution to the nation's nuclear industry, House Speaker Greg Stumbo has appointed Watkins to the National Conference of State Legislatures' Nuclear Legislative Work Group.

"Gerald is the House's expert on any issue involving nuclear energy, so appointing him to this committee was an easy one to make," Stumbo said.

"I'm confident he will be an asset to his fellow committee members and will keep us up to date as well here in Kentucky," Stumbo continued.

Watkins said he is "certainly honored to serve in this capacity and look(s) forward to taking on this additional responsibility. My hope is that this will help me expand the nuclear industry's profile in our community and in other areas of the commonwealth."

NCSL is the nation's only organization dedicated solely to state legislatures, and in 1992, it formed the Nuclear Legislative Work Group, which comprises legislators from select states involved in nuclear energy and its waste management. At the meetings, the working group will hear federal updates from the U.S. Department of Energy, discuss the latest policy issues and share information taking place within their respective states.

"Nuclear energy is a crucial component of our country's energy portfolio and is poised to grow in the years ahead," Watkins said.

"This committee will help me better understand what steps Kentucky will need to take to continue having a seat at that table."